

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-10 and 23-27 are now present in this application. Claims 1, 7 and 23 are independent.

Claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment reduces the issues on appeal amending the claims in a manner that serves to clarify the invention. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that Applicant did not fully appreciate the Examiner's position until the Final Office Action was reviewed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103

Claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,295,109B1 to Kubo et al. (Kubo), and claims 1-6 and 23-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kubo, in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,017,156 to Moriyama. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Kubo (Fig. 8B) discloses a transmissive electrode 31. Figure 8B is a cross-sectional view of the active matrix substrate taken along line 8D-8D' of Figure 8A (cited by the Examiner). An uncovered portion of transmissive electrode 31 is centrally disposed in, and bordered by inner peripheral edges of reflective pixel electrode 30 (see Figs. 8A and 8B). The Examiner describes the uncovered portion of transmissive electrode 31 as a light-transmitting region. Because the uncovered portion of the transmissive electrode is centrally disposed inside of the inner peripheral edges of the reflective pixel electrode on all sides, the uncovered portion is restricted to the confines of the border of the reflective pixel electrode only. As such, the light transmitting region of Kubo cannot possibly be bordered by either a gate line or a data line within the pixel.

Further, the relevant feature of Kubo is very similar to a feature of a conventional type liquid crystal device (shown in Fig.5 of the Applicant's disclosure). As shown therein, reflective film 36 overlaps with every inner edge of the gate line 25 and the data line 24 (also see Applicants's specification, page 9, lines 20-24). Therefore, at least because of the overlap, a light

transmitting region cannot be disposed therebetween. Like the conventional art, Kubo discloses that film 31 overlaps with every inner edge of both the gate line 21 and the data line 22 (see Kubo, Fig.8).

By contrast, in the Applicant's claimed invention, one edge of either the data line or the gate line of the Applicant's claimed device is not overlapped by the reflective film. Hence, a light transmitting region can be (and is) disposed between (bordered by) the reflecting film and the data line or gate line at the edge where there is no overlap.

Applicant has noted that the Examiner also defines regions above the data and gate lines as light transmitting regions. While Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's definition, under such a definition, the gate and data lines still do not border these regions because the data and gate lines are buried several layers lower than the reflecting film, that is, beneath a thick interlayer insulating layer 29. The Examiner's asserted definition defies the common definition of "border".

Therefore, Kubo fails to teach or suggest a light-transmitting region through which light may pass is bordered by a gate line and said reflecting film in each pixel, as recited in independent claim 7, and similarly stated in independent claim 1 (as amended) and in independent claim 23. Moriyama cannot fill the deficiency of Kubo.

Claims 8-10 depend, either directly, or indirectly on independent claim 7, and therefore are patentable for at least the reasons stated with respect to independent claim 7. Claims 2-6 and 24-27 depend, either directly or indirectly on independent claims 1 and 23. Since neither Kubo, nor Moriyama discloses or suggests the above-recited features of independent claims 1 and 23, Kubo, in view of Moriyama cannot render claims 1-6 and 23-27 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of these art grounds of rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. s therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone

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Percy L. Square, Registration No. 51,084, at (703) 205-8034, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

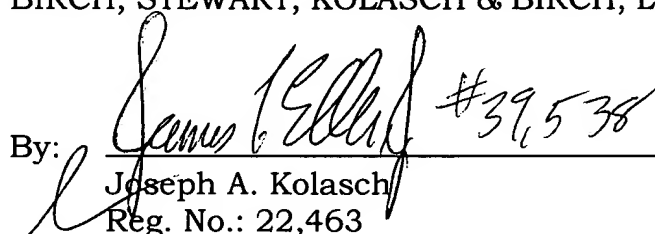
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

The claims have been amended as follows:

2. (Twice Amended) A transmission-reflection type liquid crystal display device, comprising:

a first transparent substrate;

a second transparent substrate;

a liquid crystal layer between the first transparent substrate and the second transparent substrate;

a linear polarizer on the second transparent substrate;

a cholesteric liquid crystal polarizer on an outer side of the first transparent substrate; and

a reflecting film on an inner side of the first transparent substrate adjacent to the liquid crystal layer, the reflecting film defining a light-transmitting region, wherein said light transmitting region is bordered by a gate line and the reflecting film in each pixel.